

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FIELD DIARY

Cuba & Jamaica
OF
1913

Mr. E. D. D.

(Official title.)

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James Wilson

Secretary of Agriculture.

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Mapa Gral de Comunicaciones
de la Republica de Cuba

J. G. Viera Editor

Agente Josi Rabell

Menvenate 2^a Havana

The Gundlock birds are
now in the
Instituto de Zootecnia

Calle Obispo between
Calle San Ignacio y Mercadero

Another natural history
collection is in

Escuela Pias (or Escuela
Escuelas, Guadalupe
east of Havana on a trolley
line).

The deer photographed at
Camaguey was 720 mm.
standing (at shoulder)

The birds & hutia
coll. by Sheldon 7 m.
out of Camaguey
were all ♂ except the
buff-bellied Owl which
was ♀. They were collected
March 10.

Saw Redstarts, Oriole,
yellow chimed grassquits
& musical grackles at
Hotel Camaguey, also
red tailed hawk with red
tail very dark chestnut red
but bird otherwise like

B. borealis. In the park
at Camaguey. Also tree
ducks, brown with gray & dusky
stripes on flanks, & several
small hill cranes (small
ones).

Sheldon found birds very
abundant on his hunt
near Camaguey saw a
big brown cuckoo, a
hummer, 2 kinds of orioles
& many others.

He counted hutias
in the woods & saw

16 at ~~from~~ one spot.
He says the old males become
pale with age but the ♀ & young
are ~~very~~ ~~brown~~ ~~with~~
dark, much more chestnut
brownish, some being quite
mottled.

These animals are extraordinarily abundant in the Camaguey district.

Mr. Castillo, the banker, at Camaguey told us that he has a 600 acre farm just out of town where these animals do much damage to his garden. ~~One day~~

Presently he made a hunt for them & killed 74 in one day.

On March 11 while on train from Camaguey to Santiago while passing through forest ~~some~~ from 40-80 miles out of Camaguey we saw 10 of them from the train. They were sitting or moving slowly about on the larger

branches of the medium sized trees. They are extremely conspicuous as the trees, though frequent are poorly foliated so they are visible at long distance. They usually stand or lie lengthwise on the branches but sometimes sit crosswise like a squirrel - the tail hanging down rat-like. The people report that they are equally common throughout the forests of Cuba & that during the revolution against the Spaniards they supplied an inexhaustible source of food for the rebels who had only to climb the low trees & knock them out with a club or machete as the hutia are extremely slow

and stupid. When caught
alive they are said to bite
savagely with their large
incisors.

In addition to the hutias
the Canaque region is
overrun with large numbers
of wild dogs which are
said to have been here before
the discovery of the island by
the Spaniards. These dogs
are very shy but come
about savanahs at night &
are extremely destructive to
domestic fowl, small pigs
goats etc. They have a short
yapping howl & are said
to have longer hair & more
bushy tail than ordinary
domestic dogs.

Sierra Maestra ridge has
an altitude of about 3500-
4000 ft. & above this rises
Pico de Turquino with
alt. of 2420 metros. The
summit has this form

+ is

heavily wooded.
The south slope of Sierra
Maestra has pines from
about 1500 ft - 3000 & then
and other trees come in.
The forest on upper slopes are
heavily covered with Spanish
moss & other epiphytic plants
& the ground is covered with
soft mossy growth.
Many Ruiseñors (Myadestes)

Kind on upper slopes were
different than those on base
of mt. Saw no deer, no
hutches on top.

Botanist Fernald & Taylor
visited the lower slopes of
this range & wrote a pamphlet
on the plants up to divide.
This was about 1906.

To go to Pico Turquino
the best way is to hire a small
schooner at Santiago for \$20-
30. each way. Go to Chirivico
Harbor (= Guama) about 40 miles
from Santiago.

The lands about the mt. are
in disputed ownership &
no permission needed to go
on them.

At Guama a storekeeper,
Antonio Vasquez who
can get guides
(Edwin A. Whiting)
Santiago

who will give letter to Vasquez.
~~Whiting had~~ Turquino for
Pastor & Miguel who were
with Whiting on his trip
to top of Sierra.

Guides cost about \$1.50 a day
& grub.

From Guama it would
be best to get horse outfit
& pack west along coast
to Bayamita village.

From there the crest of range can
be reached on foot up Bayamita
river & then the main peak
reached by traveling along
crest of range to west.

Whiting went to work
from Bayamita & his guides
lived in Juana.

March would be a good
month (probably the best) it might
possibly rain in Apr.

Much fog at all times of year.

Jamaica
Arrived Mch 1/13

Capromys dominica said to
still exist sparingly about base
of Blue Mts.

Mr. Cundell, Secy Jam. Div. Natl.

Mongoose reported to be growing
less in Jam. owing to increase
of ticks which attack young.

The "Gleaner," Kingston
Jam. : for Jan 14, 1899 etc
has ~~not~~ announced bird
list of Jam. birds by Mr
C. B. Taylor

March 22 made a
motor trip from Kingston
to St. Ann's Bay. Saw the
following birds

Turkey Buzzards
many Grosbeaks
" Mockingbirds
Ground dove
Pigeon
Grackle
Cathartus

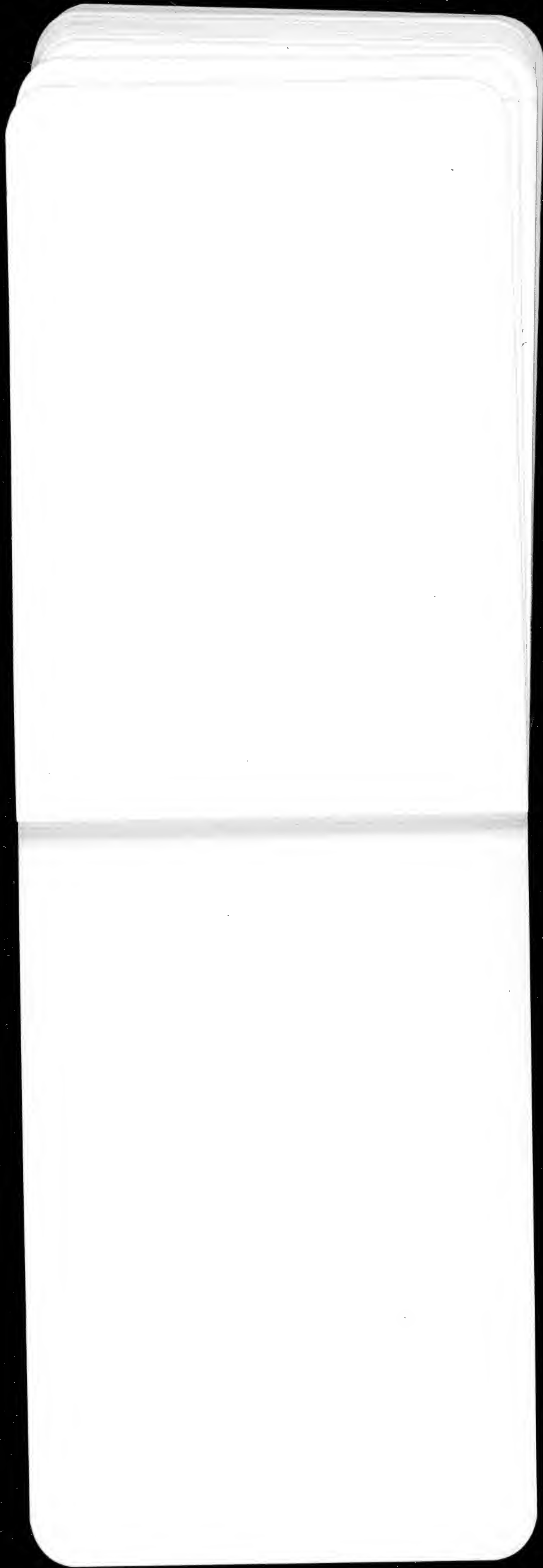
March 30 -

10 m. South of Trujillo Id
light ship saw ~~1000~~?
~~And 1000~~ ~~thousand~~ terns
flying north also from there
north into Delaware Bay
Many Herring & Ring-bill Gulls.
From this light ship north
20 m. saw ~~1000~~ many red
throated terns & a large
number of horned grebes
a few Black Seals & the
White-winged Seals.
Also what appeared to be
1 Gull not. It had a white
area extending up over cheeks
from a hole above of neck.
Off Delaware Bay a few
Bonaparte's Gulls.
From the light ship north
~~some quite a number~~
for 20 m. north quite a
number of White-bodys.

Herring Gull
Ring-bill "
Philadelphia " (Bp.)
Booby.
Black-thr. tern
Red "
Horned Grebe
Black Seal
Wh. Wg. "

Hydies Actino-photometer

a disk with blue glass
aperture - very good



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